(b) Doesn't arise.

(c) In order to increase the production and export of marine products from the country, Government is taking a number of steps, which include the schemes for extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, imparting of training to aquaculture farmers, assistance for production of value-added products and marketing support.

Reservation in the private sector

2425. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any Act, to provide reservations in the private sector; and

(b) if not, the details as to how Government are going to meet the share of lost jobs of SCs and STs in Government services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government is sensitive to the issue of affirmative action including reservation in the private sector. A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted in September 2004 to initiate a dialogue with all stakeholders to see how best the private sector can fulfill the aspirations of youth particularly those belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST). In order to carry forward the process of facilitating the participation of SCs and STs in private sector jobs further, a Coordination Committee was constituted by the Prime Minister's Office in October 2006 to ensure time-bound examination of the suggestions received from various stake holders & to identify the concrete steps arising from these and their mode of implementation.

Expansion of Indo-Russian bilateral business

2426. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of India and Russia agreed to expand bilateral business during the recent summit meetings; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the issue of difficulties in getting Russian visa by the Indian business persons was raised during such meetings;

(c) if so, what was the response of the leadership of Russia;

(d) whether Russia has agreed to facilitate visa to Indian business persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when such an agreement would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During recent meetings,incldluing the Summit meeting, the Governments of India and Russia have discussed further expansion and diversification of bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation. A joint Study Group has been set up between India and Russia to prepare a program on significant increase of mutual trade turnover between India and Russia with an overall objective of diversifying and strengthening the bilateral relations in a wide range of areas, particularly with regard to trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation as well as to expiore the feasibility to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation. The India-Russia Forum on Trade and Investment, co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce & Industry of India and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Russian Federation, held its first meeting in New Delhi on February 12-13, 2007 and it was attended by a large number of businessmen from both the sides. The India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific Technological and Cultural Cooperation also reviews the efforts to promote trade and economic ties between the two countries from time to time, the 12th Session of the Commission took place in New Delhi on December 8, 2006.

(b) and (c) During recent meetings between India and Russia, including the Summit meetings, both the sides have discussed the issue of simplifying visa procedures for business travellers from the two countries.

(d) and (e) No agreement has been signed between India and Russia to facilitate visa to Indian business persons.

Industrial parks on product segment basis

2427. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up industrial parks on product segment basis;

(b) whether such industrial parks exist in many developing countries and are contributing foreign exchange immensely to their economy; and

(c) if so, whether Government had made any study in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Under the Industrial Park Scheme 2002 of the Government, fiscal incentives may be availed of by the developer of the Industrial Park under Section 80 IA of Income Tax Act 1961. The extant scheme is not product segment specific.

(b) and (c) There is no information available with the Department with regard to such industrial parks in other countries and no such study has been undertaken in this regard.

Industrialization of North Eastern Region

2428. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any effective policy to promote industrialization in the North Eastern Region, particularly in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount invested in the Region for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMECE AND INDUSTRY